

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. **(currently amended):** A process for preparing butter milk and/or butter serum, which comprises:

subjecting raw cream to a first heat treatment at 85°C to 95°C,

preparing butter milk and/or butter serum by subjecting the raw cream to churning, and

subjecting the butter milk and/or butter serum to a second heat treatment at 85°C to 130°C,

wherein a dissolved oxygen concentration of the raw cream is decreased to 8 ppm or less by addition of an inactive gas before the first heat treatment to the raw cream, and/or a dissolved oxygen concentration of the butter milk and/or butter serum is decreased to 8 ppm or less by addition of an inactive gas before the first-second heat treatment to the butter milk and/or the second heat treatment butter serum.

2. **(previously presented):** The process according to claim 1, wherein the addition of inactive gas is not conducted before the first heat treatment.

3. **(previously presented):** The process according to claim 2, wherein the addition of inactive gas is not conducted before the second heat treatment.

4. **(previously presented):** The process according to claim 1, wherein the dissolved oxygen concentration of the raw cream and/or butter milk and/or butter serum is decreased to 2 to 8 ppm by the addition of the inactive gas.

5. **(previously presented):** The process according to claim 1, wherein the dissolved oxygen concentration of the raw cream and/or butter milk and/or butter serum is decreased to 5 to 8 ppm by the addition of the inactive gas.

6. **(canceled).**

7. **(previously presented):** A process for preparing a butter milk-related dairy product and/or processed milk product, which comprises subjecting the butter milk and/or butter serum prepared by the process according to claim 1 to at least one processing selected from the group consisting of concentration, drying, fractionation, purification, deodorizing, decoloring and addition of an additive.

8. **(currently amended):** A process for preparing a milk product or processed milk product, which comprises adding at least one selected from the group consisting of the butter milk, ~~the and~~ the butter serum, ~~the milk product and the processed milk product~~ prepared by the process according to any one of claims 1 to 3 to another milk and/or milk product.

9. **(currently amended):** A process for preparing food or drink, which comprises using, as an addition material, at least one selected from the group consisting of the butter milk,

the ~~and~~ butter serum, ~~the milk product and the processed milk product~~ prepared by the process according to any one of claims 1 to 3.

**10.-11.(canceled).**